# BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

**Date:** February 14, 2014

## INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT – DR. SARA NOGUCHI

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From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Dr. Sara Noguchi, Interim Superintendent

Contact Email: Sara-noguchi@scusd.edu

Subject: NCLB Waiver Response

The following is in response to questions about the engagement of stakeholders in the development of the NCLB waiver.

On May 1, 2013, there was a written exchange between then SCTA President Scott Smith and then Board of Education President Jeff Cuneo (attached) regarding the NCLB waiver, including an exchange about principal and teacher evaluation systems. The exchange was incorrectly reported in the waiver application as a meeting as opposed to a written correspondence.

Regarding the reported meeting between SCTA’s Executive Team and then Superintendent Jonathan Raymond on May 28, 2013, no evidence can be found that verifies that this meeting occurred.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent  ☒  Date: 2/14/2014
May 1, 2013

Scott Smith, President
Sacramento City Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 2013. I apologize for the delay in responding.

In response to your five questions, I have asked district staff to provide background information so that I am fully informed of the relevant issues. Please find my responses below.

1. There is no financial commitment by the district to CORE. At this time, no future financial commitments are imminent.

2. The actual length of the proposed waiver is dependent upon a number of different factors. These include the United States Department of Education’s decision regarding the proposed waiver, our compliance with the waiver’s actionable items and whether No Child Left Behind is reauthorized.

3. I understand that our district has applied to be our own SES provider in the past but that application was denied by the California Department of Education. The CORE waiver is substantially different from the SES waiver. Foremost, with an SES waiver, we would still be subject to the same rules and regulations, albeit with our district competing for those services, as mandated by NCLB. The CORE waiver would not require the district provide SES services and allow broad discretion in
regard to the types of supports students receive at struggling schools. Overall, the CORE waiver provides substantially more financial flexibility.

4. The Board will take action once the waiver is approved by the Department of Education. Because the proposed waiver is just that – a proposal – Board action has not been necessary.

5. Obviously, the proposed waiver, and the contents therein, would not override our existing Collective Bargaining Agreements. As you know, teacher and/or principal evaluations are subject to collective bargaining. The proposed waiver does call for the development of new teacher and principal evaluation systems, such as the Peer Assistance Review model. However, the proposed waiver does not specifically dictate what evaluation systems and instruments individual districts must use.

I appreciate the opportunity to answers these questions.

I would ask that we – myself, district staff and SCTA members – sit down and discuss the CORE waiver in more detail. I think it makes great sense to have a conversation between the involved parties to bring clarity and search for common ground as we collectively move forward.

I can meet at your convenience and request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jeff Cuneo
President, SCUSD School Board

cc: Jonathan Raymond
    Darrel Woo
    Patrick Kennedy
    Gustavo Arroyo
    Christina Pritchett
    Jay Hansen
    Diana Rodriguez
April 10, 2013

Jeff Cuneo, President
SCUSD School Board
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824

Dear President Cuneo:

SCTA is very upset about the recent discussion of the CORE waiver to NLCB and it has raised some questions and concerns. With our district being a charter member of CORE (California Office to Reform Education), SCTA expects that you can appropriately respond. We will limit this inquiry to five questions:

1. CORE has a Sacramento office and an Executive Director. What financial commitment, now or future, does our district have to CORE?
2. How long will the CORE waiver last?
3. Has our district requested a waiver from the state to allow our district to serve as our own SES agent?
4. When did you and our Board of Education take action to join the CORE waiver?
5. Do you foresee a change in our principal or teacher evaluation process if the CORE waiver is granted?

As you are likely aware, SCTA has not been involved in the CORE waiver application. We are curious about the motivation for the exclusion of ourselves as the exclusive bargaining agent from a program of national significance.

We look forward to your earliest convenient response.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith
SCTA President

cc: Jonathan Raymond
Darrell Woo
Patrick Kennedy
Gustavo Arroyo
Christine Pritchett
Diana Rodriguez
Jay Hansen
CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - (Check a Box)  

No: ☒  Yes: ☐  Date: 2/14/2014

From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Lisa Allen, Chief of Schools

Contact Email: Lisa-allen@scusd.edu

Subject: SARB Schedule and Sample Truancy Letter

Please see the attached information regarding upcoming SARB hearings as well as a sample truancy letter per the request of the Board.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent  ☒  Date: 2/14/2014
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD (SARB)

Where: Student Hearing and Placement Department, SCUSD Serna Center
Virginia Room

When: February 20, 2014
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*There are 5 cases this day that are scheduled for 30 minutes each.

Future SARB date:
March 6, 2014 same time and room.

TRUANCY COURT

Where: Juvenile Delinquency Court
9065 Kiefer Boulevard
Sacramento, CA
Department 90

When: February 21
Time: 8:30 a.m.

*Truancy Court cases are scheduled for every third Friday of the month.
TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF
(Student Name)
1234 Attendance AVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

1st Truancy Notification
(Ed Code 48260)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

John Doe's school success is important to us and attendance plays a vital role. Our legal responsibility is to inform you that John Doe has been absent and/or tardy without a valid excuse:

Attendance summary:

|Absent Types| Unverified = 2 | Truant= 0 | Other Unexcused= 0 | Tardy = 1 |

SCUSD is equipped with personnel and many resources to support you and your child regarding attendance issues. It is important for you to contact the attendance staff at your school so that we can assist you with any attendance concerns you may have. If you do not contact your schools attendance staff and the absences are not cleared, you will receive a second letter for any additional tardies and or unexcused/unverified absence which will require additional steps from you to clear.

It is our goal to work with you, but failure to clear absences can result in the following:

**Effective 1-1-98, all families receiving CalWORKS benefits (formerly AFDC) should note that there are many new rules with Welfare Reform. One new rule is this: If your child(ren) are not attending school regularly, YOUR WELFARE CHECK MAY BE REDUCED. It is a requirement, that in order to get your full welfare check, ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN MUST BE ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY AND ON TIME.**

*Education Code Section 48260* – Any pupil subject to compulsory full time education or to compulsory continuation education who is absent from school without valid excuse three full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance supervisor or to the superintendent of the school district.

State law requires notification of the following: (a) Your pupil is truant. (b) Parents or guardians are obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school. (c) Parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 48290) of Chapter 2 of Part 27. (d) Alternative educational programs are available in the district. (e) The parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy. (f) The pupil may be subject to prosecution under Section 48264. (g) The pupil may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the pupil's driving privilege pursuant to Section 13202.7 of the Vehicle Code. (h) It is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the pupil to school and attend classes with the pupil for one day.

[Signature]

Attendance Supervisor

February 3, 2014

cc: Student File, Student Hearing and Placement Department (Box 760), Juvenile Court (if required by terms of probation). ID: (dent)
TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF
(Student Name)
1940 ATTENDANCE AVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95822

2nd NOTIFICATION OF TRUANCY
(Ed Code 48261)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This is the second letter being sent to you to inform you that your child, John Doe, in grade 03 continues to have an attendance problem which needs rectifying.

Our legal responsibility is to inform you that your son/daughter has been absent and/or tardy without a valid excuse.

Attendance summary: Days for Elementary and Periods for Middle and High School

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Absent Types</th>
<th>Unverified = 8</th>
<th>Truant = 0</th>
<th>Other Unexcused = 0</th>
<th>Tardy = 9</th>
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SCUSD is equipped with personnel and many resources to support you and your child regarding attendance issues. It is important for you to contact the attendance staff at your school so that we can assist you with any attendance concerns you may have.

Effective 1-1-98, all families receiving CalWORKS benefits (formerly AFDC) should note that there are many new rules with Welfare Reform. One new rule is this: If your child(ren) are not attending school regularly, YOUR WELFARE CHECK MAY BE REDUCED. It is a requirement, that in order to get your full welfare check, ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN MUST BE ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY AND ON TIME.

Education Code Section 48261 – Any pupil who as once been reported as a truant and who is again absent from school without valid excuse one or more days or tardy on one or more days, shall again be reported as a truant to the attendance supervisor or the superintendent of the district.

If your student continues to be truant, both you and your student may be required to attend a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) hearing, and may be subjected to legal action. Parents of truant students are subject to prosecution of Penal Code 272, and truant students may be referred to Juvenile Court, have driving privileges and work permits sanctioned, and/or be transferred involuntarily.

Signature

February 3, 2014

Attendance Supervisor

cc: Student File, Student Hearing and Placement Department (Box 760), Juvenile Court (if required by terms of probation). ID: <ident>
TO THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF
(Student Name)
1940 ATTENDANCE AVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95822

NOTIFICATION OF HABITUAL TRUANCY
(Ed Code 48262)

February 5, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,
Your child is having an attendance problem. This third letter is to inform you that your child, John Doe in grade 03, is now considered a habitual truant.

Attendance summary:

| Absent Types: | Unverified = 8 | Truant= 0 | Other Unexcused = 0 | Tardy = 11 |

The school has attempted to work with you to solve your child’s attendance problems. These attempts have not been successful. It will be imperative for you and your child to attend a Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting or a Student Study Team (SST) meeting. The school site will contact you to schedule the date and time of this meeting.

Effective 1-1-98, all families receiving CalWORKS benefits (formerly AFDC) should note that there are many new rules with Welfare Reform. One new rule is this: If your child(ren) are not attending school regularly, YOUR WELFARE CHECK MAY BE REDUCED. It is a requirement, that in order to get your full welfare check, ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN MUST BE ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY AND ON TIME.

Education Code Section 48262 – Any pupil is deemed an habitual truant who has been reported as a truant three or more times per school year, provided that no pupil shall be deemed an habitual truant unless an appropriate district officer or employee has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with a parent or guardian of the pupil and the pupil himself, after the filing of either of the reports required by Section 48260 or Section 48261.

Without your cooperation the only other alternative will be to refer this matter to the Sacramento City Unified School District’s School Attendance Review Board (SARB) who may refer this matter to the District Attorney’s Office for prosecution pursuant to Penal Code 272 and/or Education Code 48290.

Attendance Supervisor’s Signature

February 5, 2014

cc: Student File, Student Hearing and Placement Department (Box 760), Juvenile Court (if required by terms of probation), Id (ident)
From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Ken Forrest, Chief Business Officer

Contact Email: Ken-forrest@scusd.edu

Subject: Layoff Notices

The district does not anticipate sending layoff notices to any permanent staff whose salaries are drawn from our unrestricted general fund prior to the March 15 statutory deadline. (Probationary, temporary and some grant-funded staff will be noticed as is standard practice.) That said, the district is still facing declining enrollment, which will shrink the number of staff at our schools. However, we anticipate that retirements and resignations will counter the number of staff displaced. In other words, there may be some moving around of staff, but no layoffs.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent
CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - (Check a Box)  
No: ☒  Yes: ☐  Date: 2/14/2014

From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by:  Gabe Ross, Chief Business Officer  
Contact Email:  Gabe-ross@scusd.edu

Subject:  Superintendent Torlakson Visit

Please be advised that state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson will visit a classroom at Susan B. Anthony after school on February 20. Photos taken during the visit will likely be posted on the Superintendent’s website and may be used in campaign literature. Letters and photo release forms are being distributed to parents.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent  ☒  Date: 2/14/2014
CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - *(Check a Box)*

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From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer

Contact Email: Gabe-ross@scusd.edu

Subject: California Professional Development Summit

Please see the attached letter from the California Department of Education announcing the California Professional Development Summit. If you are interested in this, please let Susan Pointer know.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

Date: 2/14/2014
February 4, 2014

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

ANNOUNCING THE CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

You are cordially invited to participate in the California Professional Development Summit on "Strategies to Address Education, Equity, and Excellence for African-American, Latino and Other Underserved Students." This year’s summit will also commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the sixty-seventh anniversary of Mendez v. Westminster. It will also include implementation strategies for the Common Core State Standards while addressing the Local Control Funding Formula’s accountability plan.

This summit, to be co-sponsored by the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA), the California Department of Education (CDE), the Association of California School Administrators, the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators, the California State Parent Teacher Association, the California Head Start Association, the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, the California School Board Association, the California Educational Technology Professionals Association, the Center for Leadership Equity and Research, and the California Teachers Association, will be held at the Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel on March 12–14, 2014.

This summit is designed for county and local superintendents, school board members, district- and school-site administrators, teachers, higher education representatives, community leaders, policy makers, parents, and others to provide them with a well-articulated framework to improve and accelerate achievement for all children—and specifically underserved children.

The CDE encourages you to share this announcement with all schools in your district.

I am particularly concerned that our African-American and Latino students, as well as our underserved students, continue to fall below national norms of student achievement and performance measures. In addition, low graduation rates coupled with high dropout rates, the disproportionate over-representation of students of color enrolled in special education programs, and the high rate of school suspension and expulsion for our underserved students are critical concerns that must be addressed by California’s education community.
February 4, 2014
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I encourage you to attend this professional development summit, which will offer practical and alternative solutions to help increase excellence in education for African-American, Latino, and underserved students. To support our belief that students are our future leaders, teachers, inventors, soldiers, doctors, and so much more, we need to readily address specific needs and provide appropriate support where needed. If we collectively support the desire for equal opportunities for all of our students, we must commit to increasing all efforts to provide for equity in our systems. Changing California’s future for the better begins with our students and the decisions of the adults who support them.

For more information on this professional development summit, the conference agenda, and online registration information please visit the CAAASA Web site at http://www.caaasa.org/.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Gordon Jackson, Division Director, Coordinated Student Support and Adult Education Division, by phone at 916-319-0911 or by e-mail at gjackson@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

TT:gj

2014-00952
CSBA Announces LCFF Workshops to Assist with the Implementation of LCFF and Development of LCAP Plans

CSBA is proud to announce upcoming workshops to help support local governance leaders to effectively implement the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and develop Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP).

During an interactive, two-hour presentation, CSBA staff will discuss the recently approved LCFF regulations, LCAP template, best practices for engaging local stakeholders, alignment with other programs, and answer any questions you may have. This workshop is free for CSBA members and offered as an additional benefit of membership.

- **Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6-8 p.m.**: Sacramento County Office of Education

If you're interested in attending, please let Susan Pointer know.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent  ☒  Date: 2/14/2014
From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Koua Franz

Contact Email: Koua-franz@scusd.edu

Subject: Federal Review of NCLB Waiver

Staff completed a visit with representatives from the US Department of Education on Thursday regarding the district’s participation in the Waiver from No Child Left Behind. A total of four districts in the CORE Consortium were visited by the representatives from US DOE (Los Angeles Unified, Oakland Unified, Fresno Unified and SCUSD). At the district’s request, representatives from SCTA were present to observe the discussion. We expect the US DOE to provide a monitoring report to our district in approximately three weeks.

Approved by:

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent Date: 2/14/2014